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SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 1909.

Canadian Defense Plans.

The Canadian people have not been
carried away by the naval scare which
is ravaging Great Britain to the extent
that was at first supposed. Premier
Laurier has lately characterized the
agitation in the mother country as "a
passing wave, in which we can trace
emotion, enthusiasm, and fear." These
emotions evidently are not rampant in
the Dominion, for the Canadian Parlia-
ment has adopted a rather mild resolu-
tion on the subject of imperial defense.
It reads:

"The House will cordially approve any necessary
expenditure designed to promote the speedy organi-
zation of a Canadian naval service in cooperation
with and in close relation to the imperial navy
and the lines suggested by the admiralty at the
last imperial conference, and in full sympathy with
the view that the naval supremacy of Britain is
essential to the security of commerce, the safety of
the empire, and the peace of the world."

The House expresses its firm conviction that
wherever the need arises the Canadian people will
be found ready and willing to make any sacrifice
that is required to give to the imperial authorities
the most loyal and hearty cooperation in every
movement for the maintenance of the integrity and
the honor of the empire."

This pious and patriotic declaration
amounts to considerably less than the
supply of a Dreadnought or two, which
is the immediate necessity of imperial
defense. Yet it appears that Canada has
already embarked upon a consistent,
though not costly, naval programme, and
in the matter of coast defense has taken
over the fortifications formerly main-
tained at British expense. In addition,
the Dominion expends nearly \$7,000,000
upon its militia. At the imperial confer-
ence Premier Laurier declared that
Canada would develop her own defenses
on sea and land. His idea is to train
men and officers before building war
ships, and to develop naval stations pro-
tected by submarines and torpedo boats.

This reminds one somewhat of Jefferson's
plan for a mosquito fleet, the chief
merit of which was that it was inex-
pensive. We do not know what naval
experts think of the premier's notions of
naval defense, but feel pretty sure that
none of them will be convinced that a de-
fensive navy can be constructed cheaply.
At all events it appears pretty certain
that the Canadians are not to be drawn
quickly into a costly enterprise of im-
perial defense. They will stand by the
empire if need require, and supply money,
men, and ships, but refuse to believe that
a critical need has arisen as yet. It is
a canny, but probably correct, conclu-
sion.

Complimentary votes for Senator
in Illinois are getting to be almost as
numerous as spring poets in Indiana.

A Southern Child-Labor Conference.

A notable conference to consider the
problem of child labor in the South has
just been held at New Orleans. Eleven
States were represented by delegates,
and a permanent organization with a
definite platform was formed, with Gov.
Sanders, of Louisiana, at its head. Al-
though some differences of opinion de-
veloped, and it was found necessary to
ignore the question of compulsory educa-
tion, which many feel to be inseparably
bound up with the abolition of child labor,
in order to insure harmony, the conference
agreed upon a programme of legisla-
tion which the Southern States will be
urged to adopt with as much unanimity
as practicable. This programme repre-
sents a minimum standard of child pro-
tection, and is not urged as a substitute
for a higher standard where such has
been adopted, but as a suggestion to
States which have not attained the higher
legislative level.

The programme recommends that the
minimum age for the employment of chil-
dren in any gainful occupation, except
agriculture and domestic service, be fixed
at fourteen years; that no child under
sixteen be employed in any dangerous oc-
cupation or be employed in any gainful
occupation outside the home unless able
to read and write; and that no boy under
the age of sixteen and no girl under the
age of eighteen be employed at night.
An eight-hour day for women and for
children under sixteen is favored as an
ideal, but for immediate adoption legisla-
tion is recommended limiting the hours
of labor to fifty-four a week. The present
Kentucky law on the issuance of employ-
ment certificates is commended for gen-
eral use. It is also suggested that the
States provide for the registration of all
births; a proper code of sanitary and
factory regulations is outlined, and the
opinion is expressed that the child-labor
and factory laws should be enforced by
adequate inspection and sufficient pen-
alties.

The significance of this conference lies
in the frank acceptance by the Southern
people of their responsibility with respect
to child labor. Dr. A. J. McKel-
way, long a laborer in the cause, says
that "it stamps child-labor reform in the
South as a distinct Southern movement,
and promises, through the recommenda-
tion of a high standard, the enactment
of better laws for the protection of the
work child." Gov. Sanders, the president
of the conference, promises to enter upon

an active campaign for protective legisla-
tion along the lines indicated in the
conference recommendations. Obviously
such a campaign will be more sympa-
thetically regarded in the South when
promoted by Southerners than when car-
ried on in response to Northern agitation.
Friends of the movement to abolish child
labor have every reason to feel encour-
aged over the outcome of the New Or-
leans conference.

The new sock-darning machine is said
to be the invention of a woman. The
natural bent of male inventors never
has been strenuously in the direction of
domestic labor-saving machinery.

Women and the Tariff.

We do not know that Mr. Sereno Payne
and his cohorts in Congress are seeking
absolutely to encourage the woman's
rights agitators and the suffragettes in
this country—albeit both are something
in the nature of infant industries—but we
fancy they are in a fair way to do it,
nevertheless, if they persist in enacting
into law various schedules in the tariff
bill as it came from the Ways and
Means Committee.

When we go through that remarkable
document, we find that it shows an
astounding state of affairs. It proposes
higher rates on the following articles,
among numerous others dear to the
heart of womanhood, but not necessary
to enumerate herein: Ostrich plumes,
hats, other than the very cheapest
grades; straw hats, stockings, gloves,
pawd puffs, false hair, miniature
watches worn for adornment, perfumes,
cosmetics, fancy soaps, furs, and various
chocolates.

Every article set down is affected in a
way decidedly vital to women. It means
a largely increased cost of certain things
indispensable necessary to their happiness,
and without which they will be very
miserable indeed. What prospect, even
approximately alluring, is there in a
plumage, hatplume, hatless, stocking-
less, gloveless, pufferless, perfumeless, fur-
less future? Instead of fewer of these
things, woman wants more. She always
has wanted, always will want more. To
cut them out entirely is unthinkable, of
course; to curtail the supply in the face
of the ever-increasing demand would be
the ultimate refinement of cruelty.

No wonder we hear that the women
are protesting far and wide. It would
be extremely strange if such were not
the case. And, in our opinion, the very
smallest fraction of the protest has yet
been registered. We suspect that to
come will be of a more strenuous quality
than ever dreamed of in a stand-
patter's philosophy. It need not be im-
agined that the women—and springtime
fight at hand, too—will fail to make
themselves heard in this matter.

It may be, moreover, that this impending
rampant attitude of the feminine sec-
tion of this country is the one little black
cloud on the horizon that the Republican
party might well take into consideration.

The women may not submit to tariff
exactions, impositions, and burdens as
tame as the male consumers have been
wont to submit in the past. We know
what it is that hath no fury like a
woman scorned, and wise men for ages
have taken counsel of that knowledge.
But even that may not be a circum-
stance, so to speak, to the fury of a
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The next Congress may show a com-
plexion of a decidedly different hue from
that characterizing the present one. If
lovely woman is not listened to with
most respectful attention in the crisis
now upon us—aye, listened to and her
complaints equitably adjusted.

The Democracy of this land should re-
member, however, in respect of tariff
revenue only and straightaway protection
that it is well to be off with the old
love before it is on with the new.

Clerks' Loss of Pay.

The decision of the Comptroller of the
Treasury based on a provision of the
sundry civil appropriation act of March
4 operates to deprive about fourteen em-
ployees of the War Department of their
pay since that date. These clerks were
engaged as an emergency force for work
in Cuba with the military force. The pay
of all such emergency clerks has been ob-
tained from an allotment of \$30,000 out
of a \$2,000,000 appropriation made by Con-
gress as an emergency fund in 1899. The
fourteen or fifteen clerks who are still
employed will probably be needed until
the end of April.

The Comptroller has ruled that under
the legislation in the sundry civil act it
will not be possible to make use of the
funds after March 4. It was thought by
the War Department that the salaries
could be continued, inasmuch as the funds
were turned over to the disbursing of-
ficer, but the Comptroller says that this
possession of the money by the disburs-
ing officer does not change the character
of the allotment from that of an unex-
pended balance, and being such, under
the terms of the law it must be covered
into the Treasury.

This requirement of legislation was a
result of the employment by the War
Department of the two detectives who
were sent out at considerable expense
to accumulate information in the Brown-
sville case. The cost of gathering those
more or less useful statistics was de-
frayed from the emergency fund, which
hereafter is not to be available. It hap-
pens that the law and its interpretation
by the Comptroller operates with disad-
vantage and injustice to some civilian
employees of the War Department who
must have put in at least a month's
work for which they are not to be paid,
except by some special provision. It was
the aim of Congress to have returned to
the Treasury an emergency fund which
was not, in fact, being used for emer-
gency conditions, although the employ-
ment of the clerks in Cuba appeared to
have that character.

"Mr. Roosevelt is said to be very con-
fident that the lions won't get him,"
says the Rochester Union and Advertiser.
The lions, however, are far from con-
fident, we suspect, that Mr. Roosevelt will
not get them.

But if Democratic constituencies insist
upon sending Congressmen to Washing-
ton with virtual instructions to vote for
certain protective measures, and still de-

mand that they be rated Democrats,
what is the star-eyed goddess of tariff re-
form going to do about it?

Really and truly, it does appear that
the Annapolis Club has been thrown in
the trash heap to stay put.

"It is too holly lonesome out here,"
writes an Englishman in London, Brit-
ish East Africa. He should cheer up.
It will be holly lonesome in that neigh-
borhood soon.

A writer has published an article under
the heading "The Alpha and Omega of the
Tariff Question." The Alpha, of course,
is a campaign promise; the Omega is
where the patient consumer gets off.

"For the benefit of those who don't
know," begins the Macon Telegraph. At
which point, we fear, a great many read-
ers passed the rest of it, up.

A higher tariff on stockings probably
means fewer and smaller stockings next
Christmas—and that is not so far off it
is not worth thinking of while the tariff
bill is being framed.

In respect of that proposed salary re-
duction, Mr. Edwards will find many of
his colleagues with him for campaign
purposes, but against him on an un-
recorded vote, nevertheless.

A Chicago man had his eye put out by
a "Merry Widow" hat recently. Many
a man has been reduced to a state al-
most as bad as madness by those pestif-
erous things.

We hope, however, C. Snake, esq.,
of Oklahoma, is too good a sport to plead
any "unwritten law" foolishness.

"We never hear the word 'dude' any
more. Wonder why?" muses the Mont-
gomery Advertiser. Because it is a short-
er and uglier word than "mollycoddle."

"Civic pride knows no politics," notes
the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Ah! and
how often the converse of the proposition
is true.

The biscuits and the jams mother used
to make. No wonder they were good.
There was no tariff on the one or ben-
zoate of soda in the other.

Crazy Snake doubtless is now a candi-
date for the Let Us Alone Club.

We regard it as a happy circumstance
of this life that friendships such as that
existing between Mr. Taft and Mr. Roose-
velt are not likely to be seriously dis-
turbed by touch-and-go newspaper cor-
respondents hard up for something "read-
able" to write.

"Watch Charleston grow," demands the
Charleston News and Courier. We doubt
that we can spare the time—not that we
love Charleston less, of course.

Amending our "We fear a number of
heads will be cracked, incidentally, as
the breaking of the 'solid South' pro-
ceeds," the Richmond News Leader says:
"And a number of heads are cracked that
think the breaking of the 'solid' is a
thing of the near future." Amendment
noted and accepted; impertinent, but not
lacking in all elements of the probable.

"Beware of the proximate blond!" ad-
monishes the Atlanta Journal. Evidently,
spring has come down Georgia way, at
least.

"Dickinson another Taft," says the Sat-
urday Evening Post. This probably will
inspire the hope in Dickinson that Taft
is another Roosevelt.

The Columbia State says, "Rheumatism
is no respecter of persons." You would
hardly expect it to be; it affects "joints"
so habitually.

"Mooley," the White House cow, has
put to death the last battered remains
of the "Billy possum" business, happily.

OKLAHOMA CONSTITUTION.

Not So Radical a Document as Has
Been Assumed.

From the Springfield Republican.
After all of the recent abuse of Okla-
homa's constitution there appears a cal-
mly analytical study of it in the Political
Science Quarterly, by Prof. Charles A.
Beard, of Columbia University, who
finds it a "remarkable document," yet
by no means a surprising one, who
knows the tendencies of our State
legislation in the past three decades.
Prof. Beard insists that the Oklahoma
constitution is by no means a "leap in
the dark" or a "shooting of Niagara";
there is nothing so awfully radical about
it, after all. And he concludes his essay
by reminding us:

"The American people are not given to selling
the ship of state to the stars or to deducing
the law from abstract notions, and every important
clause of the Oklahoma constitution has its
basis in the experience of one or more of the
older Commonwealths. The initiative and referendum
came from Oregon, and first variant in the laws
of several other States. Direct nomination is fast
working a revolution in the American party system
and is a generation of tentative experiments
upon earlier voluntary methods. The departure
from local legal practice, even in such important
matters as the initiative and referendum, is
the provision regarding corporations are gathered
from the constitutions and statutes of States as
far apart as New York and Texas, and the labor
provisions are not new to students of social
economy."

Oklahoma, then, is a legitimate child of
the older States. Everything it has in its
constitution it comes by through inheri-
tance or example of its elders. This is
worth remembering.

The Duty of the House.

From the Boston Advertiser.
The House will be able to exert a
greater moral influence if it settles for
itself existing differences over the details
of the tariff. Several State legislatures
have passed resolutions deprecating the
levying of an inheritance tax by the
Federal government, on the ground that
that source of revenue should be left ex-
clusively to the States. It is desirable
that the House should vote directly on
this question. It would be good policy
also to allow votes on the lumber duties,
the tea duty, the paragraph putting limits
on the free list, the paragraphs increas-
ing the duties on hosiery and women's
clothing, the Philippines section, the max-
imum-minimum sections and other
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